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## India

**Post:** New Delhi

### Monsoon Report 6

**Report Categories:**

Agricultural Situation

Climate Change/Global Warming/Food Security

Grain and Feed

Cotton and Products

Oilseeds and Products

Sugar

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**Report Highlights:**

Normal to excessive rains in the first two weeks of September have narrowed the cumulative rain deficit to 8 percent compared to 15 percent in August. Rice production prospects seem to have improved lately, but overall production could be lower than last year due to the delay in planting and deficient rainfall. Sugarcane, coarse grains and pulses will follow suit, as many sub-districts in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Rajasthan were declared drought-hit. While the government has recommended a host of relief measures, farmers in affected regions have switched to short-duration feed grains and vegetables to offset rising costs of production. The improved live water storage levels in major reservoirs should positively affect planting of *rabi* (winter dry season) crops.

## **General Information:**

### **Monsoon Progress**

#### **India received 92% of normal rains as on September 12, 2012**

A 26-percent <sup>[1]</sup> -above-normal rainfall during the first two weeks of September 2012 has brought down the cumulative rain deficit to 8% (Figure 1) in comparison to 15% and 24% in August and July, respectively. To date, only 23 subdivisions (covering 67% of countries area) out of 36 meteorological subdivisions in the country have received normal to excessive rainfall (Figure 2). The remaining 13 subdivisions that received deficient rainfall are in Gujarat, eastern Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Bihar, north interior Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura.

An estimated 400 sub-districts <sup>[2]</sup> in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Karnataka and Maharashtra <sup>[3]</sup> were declared drought-hit. Addressing their immediate concerns, the Empowered Group of Ministers on September 12, 2012, announced a host of relief measures that include: assuring a minimum of 150 workdays (versus 100 workdays) under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, reducing the interest on crop loans from 12% to 7% in the current fiscal year ending March 2013, accelerating replenishment of drinking water supplies in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, Punjab and Haryana <sup>[4]</sup>, extending the seed subsidy program <sup>[5]</sup> to include forage and feed crops and providing financial assistance (from NABARD <sup>[6]</sup>) to save horticultural crops in drought affected regions.

According to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), prevalent weather conditions are not favorable for withdrawal of the monsoon, as the entire country is likely to receive excess to normal rains for the week starting September 15, 2012, except for the southern third region of India.

### ***Kharif* planting progress**

With the exception of drought-hit states, monsoon rains have helped the growth of *kharif* (June-September) crops. According to the latest update, *kharif* crops have been planted on 96.53 million hectares (equal to 104 percent of normal area under *kharif* crops), compared to 101.9 million hectares during the corresponding period last year (Table 1). Normal to above normal rains in the last two weeks facilitated rice transplantation in major rice growing states. Though rice production prospects seem to have improved lately, overall production should be lower than last year due to deficient rainfall. Coarse grain and pulse production are expected to be lower than last year as major growing regions had received insufficient rains during the monsoon season (June-September) and consequently planted area was lower than normal <sup>[7]</sup>.

Facing a severe water crisis (drinking and irrigation), farmers in Maharashtra, Karnataka and southern Gujarat have started to harvest their sugarcane crops as green forage for livestock. In a bid to utilize the benefits of late season rainfall, farmers in the affected regions have switched to short-duration feed grains, sesame, castor, cumin (Gujarat), and vegetables to offset rising costs of production (diesel fuel and commercial electricity for powering irrigation pumps). Recent heavy rains in western Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha and eastern Rajasthan could potentially damage standing crops (soybean, corn and

cotton) and also make them susceptible to pest and disease infestation, if rains don't recede in time.

The current live water storage<sup>[8]</sup> in major reservoirs is 83% of last year's and 102% of normal storage. It should positively affect planting of winter crops (wheat, winter rice, rapeseed-mustard and pulses). Major states reporting lower-than-normal storage are Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tripura, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

**Table 1. India: Kharif Planting Progress 2012**

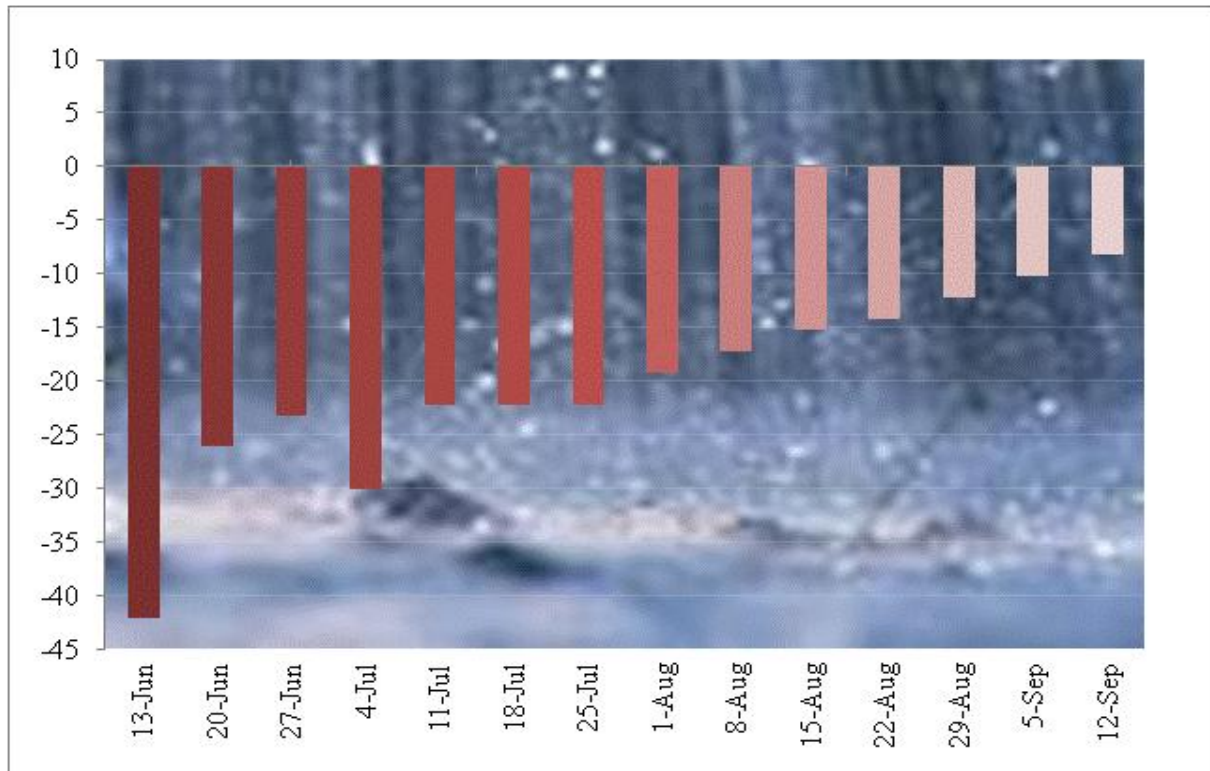
Crop	Area as of September 09, 2012	Normal area for 37 <sup>th</sup> week of the year	Area planted by end of August 2012	Area planted by end of July 2012	Area planted by end of June 2012
Rice	35.60 (37.18)	31.88	34.71	19.10	3.07
Coarse Grains	17.38 (19.56)	19.42	16.78	11.74	1.04
Pulses	9.82 (10.44)	9.93	9.77	06.30	0.40
Oilseeds	17.11 <sup>#</sup> (17.70)	16.38	16.71	13.83	1.07
Sugarcane	5.28 (05.06)	4.67	5.28	05.28	5.22
Cotton	11.34 (11.91)	10.57	11.28	09.72	3.13
<b>Total</b>	<b>96.53 (101.85)</b>	<b>92.85</b>	<b>94.53</b>	<b>65.97</b>	<b>13.93</b>

Source: Press Information Bureau and Ministry of Agriculture, GOI.

Note: Values in parentheses correspond to area as of September 09, 2011. Oilseed sowing status is for September 13, 2012.

**Figure 1. India: Week-to-Week Seasonal Rainfall Deviation (%) from Long Period Average**

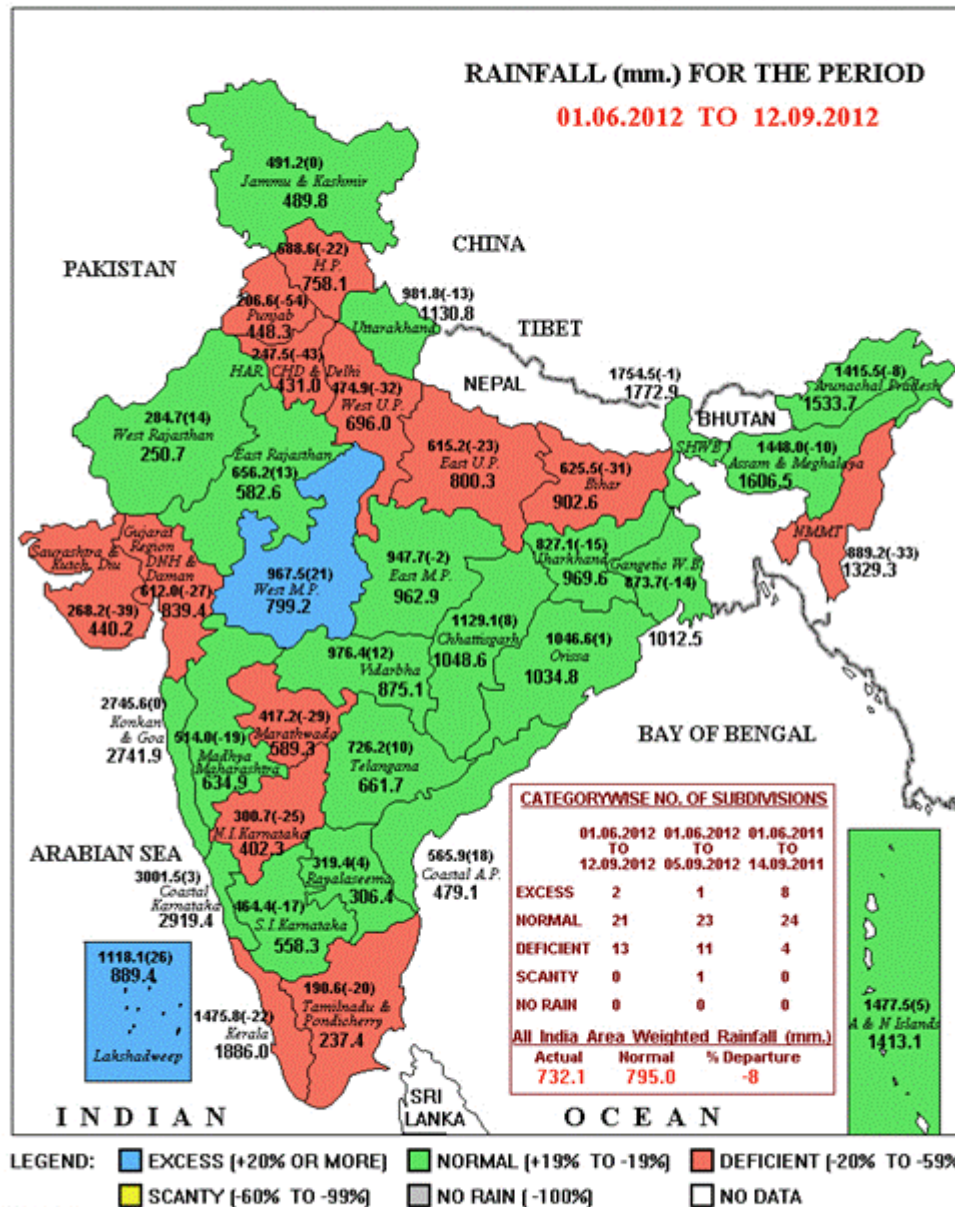
(2012)



Source: IMD, GOI

**Figure 2. India: Rainfall during the period starting June 01 to September 12, 2012**

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Source: Indian Meteorological Department, GOI

URL: [Link to Figure-2](#)

<sup>[1]</sup> Average of first two weeks of September

<sup>[2]</sup> Referred to as *tehsil* or *taluka* in local language

<sup>[3]</sup> Around 142 sub-districts in Karnataka, 132 in Gujarat, 122 in Maharashtra and 5 in Rajasthan have been hit by drought

<sup>[4]</sup> Government will allocate a sum of Rs 8 billion for ensuring drinking water supply for affected states.

<sup>[5]</sup> Media reports suggest that seed subsidy will cost government Rs 2.6 billion

<sup>[6]</sup> The National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development, GOI

<sup>[7]</sup> Average of last five years

<sup>[8]</sup> Web link-><http://agricoop.nic.in/ncfcweather/ncfcasSep-07-2012.pdf>